



**Park Board of Trustees of the City of Galveston
601 Tremont Street, Galveston, Texas 77550**

2/26/2019 - Minutes

I. Call Meeting To Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m.

II. Pledge Of Allegiance

The pledge was recited by those present.

III. Roll Call And Declaration Of A Quorum

Roll was called and a quorum declared.

Trustees Present: Spencer Priest, John Zendt, Maureen Patton, Craig Brown, Steven Creitz, Jan Collier, Victor Viser and Will Wright

Trustees Absent: Will Wright

Staff Present: Kelly de Schaun, Mike Moser, Dan Gumdrum, Kimberly Danesi, Reuben Trevino, Jaree Fortin, Jesse Ojeda, Schel Heydenburg, Ulises Zamudio, Larry Jackson, Sheryl Rozier, Peter Davis and Carla Cotropia, Legal Counsel.

IV. Conflict Of Interest Declarations

John Zendt and Maureen Patton declared a conflict with agenda item VII-A and completed a Conflict of Interest Declaration form.

V. Requests To Address The Board

Requests to address the Board were received at the time the agenda items were discussed.

VI. Discuss And Consider Approval Of 2019 Federal Legislative Agenda (Greg Burns, 15 Minutes)

Greg Burns with Thorn Run Partners reviewed the proposed 2019 Federal Legislative Agenda. He stated that over the past several years, one of the primary focuses has been on all things shoreline such as beach restoration, the beneficial use of dredged materials and federal efforts to restore the Texas coast. Mr. Burns reviewed each item on the agenda which included: beach management, RESTORE Act, offshore energy exploration, land acquisition, Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area, hotel occupancy taxes, tourism legislation, National Flood Insurance Program and infrastructure investment.

Motion: John Zendt motioned to approved the 2019 Federal legislative agenda.

Second: Maureen Patton seconded.

Vote: Approved (8-0)

VII. Administration

- A. Discuss And Consider Park Board Management Of Arts And Historical Preservation Funding (Kelly De Schaun, 20 Minutes)

Spencer Priest shared that a decision is needed on what the Trustees want to bring forward for discussion with Galveston City Council at the joint meeting on February 28, 2019. Craig Brown shared that he believes City Council is supportive of the Park Board taking over the management of these funds. He stated that two questions needed to be answered; 1. Is this move more supportive and a more objective use of HOT funds, 2. If Council votes to retain some of these funds will the Park Board contribute funds to this? Dr. Brown also stated that if the Park Board does not wish to take over the management of these funds, it will stay with the City.

Mike Moser distributed a report of the previous seven years of the Tourism Development actuals to show the fluctuation of fund balances and said that any contribution to the Arts funding would have impact on this budget. Kelly de Schaun reviewed areas that the Park Board could use to supplement but cautioned the Board that this would take away from events and marketing that the Convention and Visitor's Bureau currently does. Mrs. de Schaun reviewed the current arts penny distribution and the current process as well as how it could be handled if the Park Board assumes the management. She also recommended that if the Park Board does take on this responsibility, that it should be for a period of at least ten years. Mrs. de Schaun stated that the Board needs to determine what they would accept for funding from the Arts penny and look at if and how the Park Board would supplement if less than the 6/8 penny was received. There were several questions about why the City would not pass on the entire 6/8 penny. Dr. Brown shared that the City is looking to use that funding for other projects that may come up in the future for Public Art and Historic preservation.

Motion: Victor Viser motioned to take to the City the following points for managing the Arts and Historic Preservation Funding: A term of 10 years, the Park Board receiving a minimum of 5/8 of the penny for funding, \$50,000 to the City for Public Arts and the Reserve funds coming to the Park Board.

Second: Jan Collier seconded.

Vote: Approved (5-0, Brown, Zendt and Patton abstained)

- B. Discuss And Consider Paid Time Off Policy To Replace The Current Sick Leave Policy (Kimberly Danesi, 10 Minutes)

Kimberly Danesi reviewed the proposed policy change. She shared that this change would take effect at the beginning of the new fiscal year in October 2019 and would keep the Park Board in-line with other entities in the area.

Motion: Victor Viser motioned to approve the Paid Time Off policy to replace the Current Sick Leave policy.

Second: Jan Collier seconded.

Vote: Approved (6,1 - Zendt opposed, Patton not present at time of vote)

- C. Presentation Of Monthly "The Island Times: Park Board Update" (Kelly De Schaun, 10 Minutes)

Kelly de Schaun distributed a copy of the new monthly Park Board report and gave an overview of the information the report contains. She stated that this report would be distributed at the end of each month to the Trustees and that it will be posted on the Website and sent to Galveston City Council as well.

VIII. Operations

A. Discuss And Consider The East End Lagoon Business Plan And Next Steps (Sheryl Rozier, 10 Minutes)

Sheryl Rozier shared that she is seeking approval from the Trustees for acceptance and endorsement of the presented business plan as the guiding document for the East End Lagoon with the stipulations that additional information is needed for the proposed fishing and RV park. She is also seeking support and endorsement to accept the RESTORE grant funding for the open-air interpretive center and to submit a request to the City of Galveston to supplement the projected pro-form losses at a rate of \$50,000 per year for the next eight years until the area is self-sustaining. Mrs. Rozier shared that this information will be part of the presentation to City Council at the joint workshop on February 28, 2019.

Motion: John Zendt motioned to approve the presented business plan as the guiding document, acceptance of the RESTORE grant and requesting from the City of Galveston, \$50,000 per year for eight years.

Second: Craig Brown seconded.

Vote: Approved (8-0)

B. Discuss And Consider Approval To Engage With Homeowner Associations And Land Owners Regarding Summer Season Contingency Plans For Seaweed Removal (Kelly De Schaun, 10 Minutes)

Spencer Priest invited those with public comments regarding this item to address the Board. Jerry Mohn with the West Galveston Island Property Owners Association requested the Park Board's assistance to clean the west end of the island should there be an invasion of seaweed as was the case several years ago. Marty Baker also addressed the Board and stated that he believes it is the Park Board's responsibility to clean the west end beaches since they receive HOT funds from the west end.

Kelly de Schaun reviewed that the Trustees voted in 2018 to no longer allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, (USACE) beach cleaning permit to be used by 3rd party vendors due to liability issues. She shared that the Park Board does clean the island from tip to tip and that the public easements on private beaches are included in this. Mrs. de Schaun stated that the State does not consider seaweed debris and the permit from the USACE dictates that there must be a minimum amount of coverage for cleaning. She shared that there have been several discussions between the Park Board and representatives from the homeowner associations and she is seeking approval to discuss a contingency plan for the areas not under management of the Park Board should there be a significant event of seaweed that requires the mobilization of heavy equipment.

Motion: Maureen Patton motioned to approve staff engaging with the homeowner associations and land owners regarding a contingency plan for seaweed removal in the case of a significant event.

Second: Craig Brown seconded.

Vote: Approved (7-1, Worthen opposed)

IX. Tourism Development

A. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Board And Invited Partners Task Force To Determine The Future Vision Of The Convention And Visitors Bureau (CVB) Online Presence (Kelly De Schaun, 10 Minutes)

Kelly de Schaun brought forth to the Board the list of proposed members to participate in the task force to work on the vision for the Convention and Visitor's Bureau online presence:

- Victor Viser, Trustee
- Jan Collier, Trustee

- Will Wright, Trustee
- Lee Roane, Galveston.com
- Nelson Gumm, AJR Media
- Claire Reisweg, Sand and Sea Properties
- Proof Marketing, Marketing Agency for the Office of the Governor

Motion: Maureen Patton motioned to approve the taskforce member list.

Second: Steven Creitz seconded.

Vote: Approved (8-0)

- B. Discuss And Consider Continuation Of The Fireworks Displays For The 2019 Summer Season (Dan Gumdrum/Bryan Kunz, 15 Minutes)

Spencer Priest invited those with public comments regarding this item to address the Board. Joanie Steinhaus shared that fireworks cause both air and water pollution and are harmful to the environment. She distributed a fact sheet to the Board to support her concerns. Wayne Holt thanked everyone for their time and attention to this matter. He stated that resources are finite and hopes that the Board would consider alternatives for the funds spent on the Sunday night fireworks displays. Rebecca Gantert who lives close to the area where the fireworks are discharged does not enjoy them and the interruption they bring.

Dan Gumdrum reported back to the Board on the items he was asked to research from the previous meeting. He shared that the loud shells can be removed from performances and that using longer shells would send the display higher thus reducing the noise. He shared that the shells are made of paper and cardboard and break into biodegradable pieces upon explosion. Mr. Gumdrum also stated that the Fire Marshall considers the 37th street launch location as the safest area and that Stewart Beach is also an area that could be used.

Motion: John Zendt motioned to continue the Sunday Summer fireworks for 2019 and look at alternatives for 2020.

Second: Jan Collier seconded.

Vote: Motion Failed (3-5, Creitz, Worthen, Brown, Patton and Viser opposed).

Spencer Priest shared that this vote also meant that there would be no 4th of July fireworks display. The consensus was that the vote was meant for the Sunday evening fireworks displays and did not include the elimination of the 4th of July. Carla Cotropia said that the motion could be amended by the someone who was part of the prevailing vote.

Motion: Victor Viser motioned to reconsider the original motion to not include the 4th of July Fireworks.

Second: Craig Brown

Steven Creitz recommended having the fireworks on the major holidays during the summer which would include Memorial Day weekend, the 4th of July and Labor Day weekend.

Motion: Victor Viser amended the motion to Approve having the fireworks displays on the Sunday before Memorial Day, the 4th of July and the Sunday before Labor Day.

Second: Craig Brown

Vote: Approved (6-2, Priest and Worthen opposed)

Kelly de Schaun stated that the expenditure would be brought back to the Board for final approval.

- C. Discuss And Consider Special Event Funding For 2019 The Race Of Gentlemen (Bryan Kunz, 15 Minutes)

Bryan Kunz shared a short video that gave an overview of the Race of Gentlemen event which was solicited by staff for the island. If the Convention and Visitors Bureau is successful in acquiring this event, it would be held in November. Maureen Patton shared that this was presented to the Tourism Development Advisory Committee and approved.

Motion: Maureen Patton motioned to approve the Special Event Funding for the 2019 Race of Gentlemen.

Second: Jason Worthen seconded.

Vote: Approved (8-0)

- D. Discuss And Consider Agreement To Host 2019 The Race Of Gentlemen At East Beach (Bryan Kunz, 15 Minutes)

Bryan Kunz reviewed the terms of the agreement to host this event.

Motion: Maureen Patton motioned to approve the agreement to host the 2019 Race of Gentlemen.

Second: Victor Viser seconded.

Vote: Approved (8-0)

- X. Consent

Motion: John Zendt motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items.

Second: Steven Creitz seconded.

Vote: Approved (8-0)

- A. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Park Board Of Trustees Meeting Minutes
- B. Discuss And Consider 2017-2018 Park Board Financial Audit (Mike Moser)
- C. Discuss And Consider Approval Of December 2018 Unaudited Financial Statements (Mike Moser)
- D. Discuss And Consider Award Of Contract To Immaculate Painting & Construction To Paint The Main Office At Seawolf (Larry Jackson, 10 Minutes)
- E. Discuss And Consider Award Of Contract To Competitive Electric To Replace The Pier Lights (Larry Jackson, 10 Minutes)
- F. Discuss And Consider The Purchase Of Two Portable Ticket Booths For Stewart Beach (Dan Gundrum)
- G. Discuss And Consider Extention/Renewal Of Concession Agreements (Dan Gumdrum)
- H. Discuss And Consider Approval To Purchase One (1) 4 Wheel Drive, 12 Passenger Van For Beach Patrol (Reuben Trevino)

- I. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Purchase And Installation Of New Under Carriage Vehicle/Equipment Wash For Coastal Zone Management Maintenance Facility (Jesse Ojeda)
- J. Discuss And Consider The Execution Of An Interlocal Agreement With The City Of Galveston Related To Annual Beach Surveys (Reuben Trevino / Sheryl Rozier, 10 Minutes)
- K. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Tourism Development Expenditures (Melody Smith)

XI. Future Agenda Items

- Update on Asset Review
- Update on Visit to Washington DC
- 2019-2020 Budget Schedule
- Port of Galveston Master Plan

XII. Announcements

Craig Brown shared that the Leave no Trace ordinance that was proposed by the Park Board is on the next City Council agenda for approval. He also shared that the City Council will be voting on a resolution to encourage establishments on the island to ask customers if they want a straw before distributing and to encourage establishments to use biodegradable straws.

Kelly de Schaun passed around a Thank You letter from G. Lee Gallery for the Park Board sponsorship of their Plein Air Contest. She also passed out information regarding the Port of Galveston Master Plan Public events.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Schel Heydenburg
Board Reporter

Maureen M. Patton
Board Secretary